

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 4, 2003, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. In this Amendment no claims are cancelled and new claims 9-19 are added so that claims 1-19 are now pending.

In this Amendment original claims 1-8 are amended with regard to very minor issues of form. In addition, claim 1 is amended by describing the light source as a pulsed light source producing pulses of light. The entire patent application emphasizes that the novel body scanner is not only small in size, leading to various optical design considerations, but also employs a pulsed light source. For example, see page 4, lines 12-25 and the passage from page 5, line 23 through page 6, line 1. Additional description with regard to the pulsed light source appears at page 9 in lines 7-23 and at page 10, lines 5-24. The patent application points out that by employing a pulsed light source, the scanner can operate under normal lighting conditions and the subject of the photography need not remain stationary for long periods of time.

In this Amendment new claim 9, depending from amended claim 1, describes the presence of an optical diffusion glass between the pulsed light source and the first objective lens. As pointed out in the patent application at page 9, lines 14-18, this optical diffusion glass is important when the light source is a pulsed light source. The diffusion glass prevents distortion of the image by minimizing "hot-spots" characteristic of a flash tube that may be the pulsed light source. Newly added claims 18 and 19 are supported by the same disclosure that supports amended claim 1 and new claim 9.

New independent claim 10 is similar to examined claim 1 but describes the optical system of the body scanner as including a honeycomb screen that prevents vignetting. An example of a honeycomb screen is element 10 shown in Figure 4, which is described at page 9 of the patent application in lines 18-23. The use of such a honeycomb screen, as explained in the cited passage of the patent application, is particularly important when the first objective lens has a short focal length. As further explained in the patent application, one of the important features of the invention is that the claimed body scanner is compact in size. In order to achieve that compact size, one of the important requirements is that the objective lenses have relatively short focal lengths, leading to the possibility of vignetting that is cured by the honeycomb.

Newly added claims 11-17 are dependent claims directly reproduced from examined claims 2-8.

All examined claims were rejected as anticipated by each of three patents, Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 4,132,575, hereinafter Suzuki), Halioua (U.S. Patent 4,564,295), and Kobayashi et

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al. (U.S. Patent 6,291,817, hereinafter Kobayashi). These rejections are respectfully traversed as to the claims now presented.

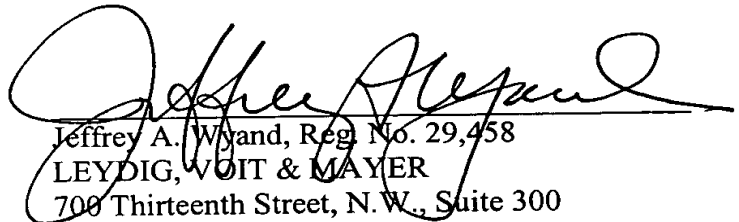
While a lengthy description could be supplied as to the distinctions between the invention and each of the three references applied in rejecting the examined claims, it is sufficient to point out, with regard to claims 1-9, 18, and 19, that none of the light sources in any of the three references is a pulsed light source. Even the description of a laser light source, for example in connection with Figure 11 of Kobayashi, makes clear that the laser light source must be continuous. That laser light source is used in combination with moving mirrors in order to scan an entire image, a process that takes substantially longer time than the flash image captured according to the invention using the pulsed light source. Since anticipation requires that a prior art reference disclose every element of a claimed invention, and that stringent test is not met with respect to any of the three references applied, the rejection for anticipation must be withdrawn.

The use of the pulsed light source in the invention as defined by claims 1-9, 18, and 19 is the reason for including the optical diffusion plate described in claims 9 and 19. There is no suggestion for such a plate in any of the three references, since none of those references employs a pulsed light source.

With regard to new claims 10-19, none of the references describes the employment of a honeycomb screen or similar screen to avoid vignetting problems that could be experienced with body scanners operating at short distances, i.e., compact body scanners. Therefore no reference applied in rejecting the examined claims can anticipate or even suggest the invention as defined by those newly added claims.

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims now pending are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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